UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/247
24 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Acting upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, on 16 February 1997 at 1915 hours, six Saudi helicopters violated Iraqi airspace over the area situated between the Fares and Al Safawi posts four kilometres inside Iraqi territory.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a view to bringing a halt to these unwarranted acts of provocation which are being committed in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and which constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a Member State of the United Nations.

In addition, I should like to reaffirm the right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, for the injury sustained as a result of such violation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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